

## CONTACT MEMO

Contact: Ken Kessel, Tuolumne County Water Agency  
Date: March 7, 1997  
Setting: Meeting in Sonoma

I met with Ken Kessel to discuss water availability in Tuolumne County and the potential for conjunctive use. The following is a summary of Ken's comments:

- 1) 1969 Act created the Tuolumne County Water Agency (California Water Code Appendix, Sections 113-1 to 113-100), which was dormant until 1980. The purposes of the agency are to provide county wide water conservation; provide county wide flood control, and provide county wide development of water resources.
- 2) Tuolumne County has some very unique qualities, including its shape, geology, and watershed. The population is only 50,000.
- 3) Ken's goal is to get Tuolumne County guidelines implemented, to allow for a more effective water agency.
- 4) Ken believes the Tuolumne County has abundant water supplies that could be utilized in a water transfer program. Ken believes that there is a well developed fracture system, including joints in the rock, that allow for exceptional will yields.
- 5) Others have taken advantage of Tuolumne County water resources; for example, some companies have taken water out of springs by the truckload, to sell as bottled water.
- 6) RCRC is active in taking the lead in County water management. Ken's not sure if RCRC would be the best entity to manage water in the county. Ken suggested I talk to Ken Marks (209) 586-7198.
- 7) Ken believes that the County supervisors would be interested in a CALFED workshop to discuss potential water transfer issues. They can be reached at (209) 533-5521.